

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 1, 2005

George W. Bush
The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are delighted to hear that you are going to visit Fargo, North Dakota this week and we hope you will take the opportunity while you are there to meet with farmers on an issue that is critical to our region's economy.

Specifically, we hope that you will meet with a small group of family farmers to discuss the impact that the proposed Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) will have on their livelihoods.

Mr. President, CAFTA is a serious threat to the well-being of thousands of family farmers in the Red River Valley. Under CAFTA, the Central American nations would have increased access to America's sugar market at a time when our sugar market is already oversupplied. Under CAFTA, sugar imports would flood the U.S. market, depress crop prices, and undermine the domestic sugar program, which operates at no cost to the U.S. taxpayer.

Mr. President, agriculture is the most important sector of North Dakota's economy and sugar beets are one of the most important crops our family farmers produce. CAFTA threatens to destroy this vitally important sector of our state's economy, which provides thousands of jobs and billions of dollars in economic activity for North Dakota.

The citizens of North Dakota rarely have the opportunity to hear directly from their President. We hope that while you are visiting Fargo you will take the opportunity to meet with a small group of family farmers to hear their concerns about the impact CAFTA will have on their futures.

Sincerely,


KENT CONRAD
United States Senate


BYRON L. DORGAN
United States Senate


EARL POMEROY
United States House